(c) Water being a State subject, the concerned State Governments are primarily responsible for planning, funding and execution etc. of all types of irrigation projects/schemes including flood control and drainage from their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Erosion of Ganga in North Bengal

2425. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are considering a proposal to recognize the heavy erosion of the banks of Ganga in North Bengal and to undertake anti-erosion work there;

(b) if so, whether any survey report has been prepared on the project together with its estimated cost; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) to (c) Flood Management is a State subject. Planning investigation and execution of flood management works are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. Government of India renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The river Ganga is not located in North Bengal. As per available information, no proposal regarding heavy erosion in North Bengal has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

Completion of Narmada Dam Project

2426. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to complete the Narmada Dam Project;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether the voluntary agencies like Narmada Bachao Andolan etc., have been creating problems in the completion of the Dam project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove such hurdles and to complete the project within the stipulated period ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) As per Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award, construction of Narmada Dam Project (renamed as Sardar Sarovar Project) is linked to the pari-passu completion of the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) and the implementation of the environmental safeguard measures. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 18-10-2000, Sardar Sarovar Dam has been raised upto E.L. 90 m. An Action Plan has been finalised by the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) for further raising of the dam beyond 90 m and for implementation of the related rehabilitation and resettlement of the PAFs. The Action Plan, is approved by NCA, is as under :

Height of the Dam	Development of all civic amenities and keeping in readiness developed agricultural land and house plots with core houses at R&R sites and allotment of land and house plot of PAFs by	Completion of construction subject to approval of Narmada Control Authority after getting the clearance of R&R and Environment Sub-groups by
100 m	December, 2001	June, 2002
110m	December, 2002	June, 2003
121m	December, 2003	June, 2004
136.68m	December, 2004	June, 2005

The Canal Head Power House of the project has been completed in all respects and power generation can commence as soon as the dam is raised up to Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) *i.e.* 110m. Construction of the River Bed Power House (RBPH) is in advanced stage as about ninety per cent of excavation has been completed and the supply of the Pump-Turbines and Generator-Motors sets are in progress. The phase-1 (0 to 144.5 kms.) of the Narmada Main Canal, which is off taking from Sardar Sarovar Dam, is complete in all respects. The reach from 144.5 kms. to 263 kms. of the Narmada Main

Canal is in advanced stage of construction and the works in the reach 263 kms to 357 kms have also been commenced.

(c) and (d) The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) filed a petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 15th April, 1994 against the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project. However, the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18th October, 2000 has *inter alia* directed that construction of the dam would continue as per the award of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The NBA has constantly been agitating against further raising of the Dam. However, the work of construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is proceeding as per the Action Plan finalised by the Narmada Control Authority on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Constitution of Water Quality Assessment Authority

2427. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues;

(b) if so, the composition of the Authority and the guidelines under which such authority will function; and

(c) the extent to which water related issues would be solved by the Authority ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of members of the Authority as per an Extraordinary notification in the "The Gazette of India" dated 22-6-2001 is given below :

1.	Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests	—Chairperson
2.	Addl. Secretary and Project Director, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests	—Member
3.	Chairman, Central Water Commission	—Member
4.	Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	—Member